

# ilima tours

April 30, 2012

RE: Testimony in OPPOSITION to Bill 11: Relating to Public Parks

Dear Council Chairperson,

My name is Brian Chang. I am the Vice President/General Manager of Ilima Tours & Transportation, a transportation provider on Oahu since 1985. I am testifying in OPPOSITION of Bill 11 relating to Public Parks.

I believe that this bill is misguided, and will not achieve what it is intending.

First, restricting access to public parks will hurt reputable wholesalers such as Dragon, who play by the rules, and will encourage less-than-favorable operators to cheat to fill in a huge demand for visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of Hawaii.

As in the case of Hanauma Bay, with its "taxi" operators operating vans back and forth from Koko Marina to the Bay, you cannot restrict public access to the beach. I fear that this is what will happen with Kailua Beach (and others, as they seek the same restrictions in the future). I predict a plethora of new "taxis" will operate to and from Kailua Beach Park from a nearby location. In addition, these "taxis" will produce enormous amounts of traffic congestion in and around the park and parking lot.

Also, the State spends enormous sums of tax dollars attracting visitors to Hawaii. Ironically, in this case, they advertise the same parks (Kailua Beach & Hanauma Bay) which you now seek to restrict.

If you need another example, think of what happened at the Tantalus Scenic Lookout. The City & County of Honolulu reduced vehicle size and weight allowed on that road, the end result is now dozens of less than favorable operators clogging the roads at night, instead of just a few minibuses. .


The largest (by far) economic component of our economy is tourism. The jobs it creates and the taxes it raises via the Transient Accommodations Tax, income taxes, and excise taxes are enormous.

This bill will not achieve its intended goal. It will hurt the legitimate players and hurt our economy.

Please kill this bill.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

  
Brian Chang  
Vice President/GM

Ilima Tours & Transportation

3230 Ualena Street, Honolulu, HI 96819-1918 Ph. (808) 836-1881 Fax. (888) 596-3390

RECEIVED  
MAY 2 9 05 AM '12  
CITY CLERK  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

MISC. COM. 1201

PH